



Herald Photo/Jennifer Grigg

Northridge Elementary School third-graders Tyler Rodgers, left, and Ashley King use footbridge spanning Murdock Canal in Orem.

## Parents' concerns mandate footbridge fencing

*11 May 1993*  
By JANET HART  
Herald Staff Writer

OREM — City officials have decided not to gamble with child safety along a portion of the Murdock Canal and will begin install-

The portion of canal in question is just east of the Northridge Park which is adjacent to Northridge Elementary School.

Manning said fencing is missing on the east side going north

dren to walk along while holding onto the bridge.

In addition, the city recently completed installing playground equipment which makes the park a bigger draw to children who

the bridge." Conrad said nothing will work to keep all children away from the canal, but fencing would keep the littlest ones out.

Until the fencing is completed, Conrad said neighborhood moth-

Two weeks ago neighbors of the Northridge Park expressed concerns about the lack of fencing along the canal next to a new footbridge connecting homes to the east with the park.

Last week, neighborhood representatives returned and got the answer they were looking for — Orem city will install the fencing as soon as possible.

“From a purely liability standpoint, it’s not that bad. But it goes beyond that because everyone is a parent and no one wants to see children get hurt,” said newly named public works director Richard Manning.

When the city created Northridge Park, the entire package included the installation of a footbridge to accommodate homes to the east.

One of the concerned mothers in the area said the bridge is needed, but other factors combined with completion of the bridge to make the area particularly dangerous.

Judy Conrad, 98 E. 1750 North, said approximately two weeks ago a storm drain pipe was installed next to the footbridge which is wide enough for chil-

filled the canal sooner than expected with the unusually wet weather.

“A number of things came together at the same time. The bridge was actually a blessing in disguise because it got people down here to look at it,” Conrad added.

A recent count of people using the footbridge showed 219 children crossed between approximately 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. on a Thursday, Conrad said.

A neighbor to the east of canal told Conrad she constantly sees children “on, around and under

basis, particularly when Northridge Elementary is beginning and ending the school day.

City engineer Ed Gifford said crews will complete fencing on each side of the bridge. The west side of the bridge, which has a significant slope to street level, will also get retaining walls and ramps to accommodate disabled individuals.

The canal company is very concerned that they have easy access to the canal when it is filled with water, Gifford said. To alleviate those concerns, the city will also be installing automatic gates which will open by a sensor.

Wilkinson pointed out that there are four and a half empty buildings that have been maintained and could be used by other agencies.

Wilkinson pointed out that there are four and a half empty buildings that have been maintained and could be used by other agencies.

Wilkinson pointed out that there are four and a half empty buildings that have been maintained and could be used by other agencies.

Wilkinson pointed out that there are four and a half empty buildings that have been maintained and could be used by other agencies.

Wilkinson pointed out that there are four and a half empty buildings that have been maintained and could be used by other agencies.

Wilkinson pointed out that there are four and a half empty buildings that have been maintained and could be used by other agencies.

Wilkinson pointed out that there are four and a half empty buildings that have been maintained and could be used by other agencies.

Wilkinson pointed out that there are four and a half empty buildings that have been maintained and could be used by other agencies.

Wilkinson pointed out that there are four and a half empty buildings that have been maintained and could be used by other agencies.

Wilkinson pointed out that there are four and a half empty buildings that have been maintained and could be used by other agencies.

Wilkinson pointed out that there are four and a half empty buildings that have been maintained and could be used by other agencies.

Wilkinson pointed out that there are four and a half empty buildings that have been maintained and could be used by other agencies.

Wilkinson pointed out that there are four and a half empty buildings that have been maintained and could be used by other agencies.

Wilkinson pointed out that there are four and a half empty buildings that have been maintained and could be used by other agencies.

Wilkinson pointed out that there are four and a half empty buildings that have been maintained and could be used by other agencies.

Wilkinson pointed out that there are four and a half empty buildings that have been maintained and could be used by other agencies.

Wilkinson pointed out that there are four and a half empty buildings that have been maintained and could be used by other agencies.

Wilkinson pointed out that there are four and a half empty buildings that have been maintained and could be used by other agencies.

Wilkinson pointed out that there are four and a half empty buildings that have been maintained and could be used by other agencies.

Wilkinson pointed out that there are four and a half empty buildings that have been maintained and could be used by other agencies.



Mary Ellen Wilkinson